GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE SHELLS
RAMJI MANJHI;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army had scrapped 87,000 indigenously made shells for T-72 main battle tanks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether consequently the Army had effected a purchase of 25,000 rounds from Israel for use during the 11 month Operation Parakram;

(d) whether the Ordnance Factories are capable for producing shells ofacceptable quality for use in 125 mm smooth-bore guns fitted onto Main battle tanks; and

(e) if so, the reasons for procurement of these shells from Israel?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 FOR 4.12.2003

The Army has segregated 88,000 rounds of 125 mm FSAPDS (Fin StabilisedArmour Penetrating Discarding Sabot) hybrid ammunition as unserviceable. The segregated ammunition is the hybrid ammunition of Russian and Defence Research& Development Organisation (DRDO) design. The manufacture of hybrid version has since been discontinued because of occurrence of burning debris inside the fighting compartment of the tank and loosening of projectile from the cartridge case. The present manufacture by OFB is as per indigenous design only. Since recommencement of production in June 2001, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) hassupplied more than 1,30,000 rounds of FSAPDS ammunition.The ammunition meets all the quality parameters and laid down acceptance criteria.

2. Earlier, during operation Parakram, Army had taken up a case for import of the ammunition on emergent basis in order to make up the stocks deficiency arising on account of 88,000 rounds which were segregated as unserviceable. A contract for 20,000 rounds ex-Israel has been signed on September 3, 2003 by Ministry of Defence in order to partially meet the deficiency which remains inspite of supply of OFB. After accounting for the receipt from OFB & ex-Israel, thedeficiency for this ammunition, on 31st March, 2003 was 3,47,193 rounds.

(e) A task force has been set up to examine utilization/rectification of the 88,000 rounds of hybrid ammunition supplied by OFB earlier.